

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR APRIL 18

THE SHEPHERD'S PSALM.

LESSON TEXT—Psalm 23.
GOLDEN TEXT—The Lord is my Shepherd.—Ps. 23:1.

This is the most famous of the shepherd king's writings. Probably written in his later life, he borrows his figure from the experience of his youth. The relation of the lamb to David is a type to him of his relations to God. Israel's greatest poet had ample time for meditation in the days of his youth as he followed the occupation of shepherd. His playing on the harp is famous and he made the first official use of music in the worship of Jehovah (see I Chron. 16:4-6). The word "Psalm" is from the Greek, and first meant a stringed instrument. The Hebrew title of this book is "Psalms." Of the 150 psalms David is expressly credited with 73. Praise of God is the central theme of all. Thanksgiving, trust, prayer and triumph each receive expression, and a large group are Messianic.

To fully study this, the sweetest of all psalms, we must consider it verse by verse.

(1) "My Shepherd." The lamb is David. The Shepherd is Jehovah. The time is man's natural time on earth. The rest is in the future. This Shepherd so provides that the lamb "shall not want." It is his business to care for his sheep. We are the sheep. Jesus is the Shepherd, and his sheep obey his voice (John 10:4, 5). We shall not want for food, for drink, for grace, for quietness, for companionship, for guidance and for welcome back to the fold at the end of the day or in the time of storm.

(2) "He leadeth me." "The Lord is my Shepherd because (a) he bought me; (b) he feeds me; (c) he leads me."—Robertson. To fully comprehend the deep significance of this psalm we must try to know the land of Palestine and the habits of desert shepherds; how they feed their flocks, know them by name, and keep constant vigil against the danger of flood and wild beasts. The Lord is an individual shepherd, interested in the one as well as the whole, and as such attends to each individual's need. He provides a place for us to "lie down in pastures of tender grass;" he also causes us to walk beside "waters of quietness." He makes us to lie down at times and he knows where to lead, providing at the same time food and drink. God's word is the richest pasturage for the sheep of the Great Shepherd.

(3) "He restoreth my soul." The Shepherd restores our faintness. If the lamb is too weak, he carries it "in his bosom" until it is revived. Many are the ways he revives us. A word, a sentence, a paragraph, or an experience will oftentimes restore the sick, weary, sorrowful or sin-burdened child of God. He also leads—remember he does not drive—and his paths are paths of pleasantness and of peace. His paths are "right tracks," not the devious ones of sin. We cannot walk in these paths without his leadership, without his strengthening rest, without the invigorating food and drink which is provided for us by the Good Shepherd. Jehovah does all of this for "His name's sake," not because of our merit, though of course he does guard and help his people for their own sakes, but they have a stronger security because of what he is himself.

(4) "Yea though I walk." Just as every need has been and will be provided for (Ps. 4:19) even so will every fear be banished. The flock passed beyond the "tender grass" and "waters of quietness" into new and strange experiences, into the "valley of deepest darkness," not alone the experience of physical death but all of life's experiences that are shrouded by thick, impenetrable darkness, for the Christian does not always walk in paths of light. Sometimes we scarcely see the Shepherd, but we may always hear his voice. Dark valleys may lie between two excellent pastures grounds even as Bunyan suggests in Pilgrim's Progress. Darkness is a shadow, not a substance, for the sting of sin has been removed (I Cor. 15:54-57). Why not fear? "For thou art with me" and he is stronger than any possible enemy. There are dangers which we cannot cope with, but as he is with us "we are able" (Isa. 43:2; Rom. 8:31; Heb. 13:5). The rod was used for defense and the staff for climbing, and the eastern shepherd still carries both. The staff is symbolic of the scepter—our Shepherd is also Sovereign (Acts 2:36). The written word, kind friend, or remembered promise may be the rod and staff of God.

(5) "My cup runneth over." Here the figure changes. Jehovah is now the bountiful host. What a feast he has spread! David as a shepherd and as a fugitive from Saul knew the pinch of hunger and the satisfaction of eating in peace, in the very presence of his enemies, man and beast. They that are Christ's have enemies (John 15:19; II Tim. 3:12), but as our Host he has spread a banquet in their very presence while the world goes on feeding upon the husks. He no longer leads us with the "rod of gladness," the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:38; I John 3:20, 27 R. V.). For the ancient feast this banquet was an essential preparation.

Following it his cup was filled to overflowing.

Only the overflowing life can bless others.

Our joys, our spiritual joys in Christ, are given in abundance that we may overflow to others.

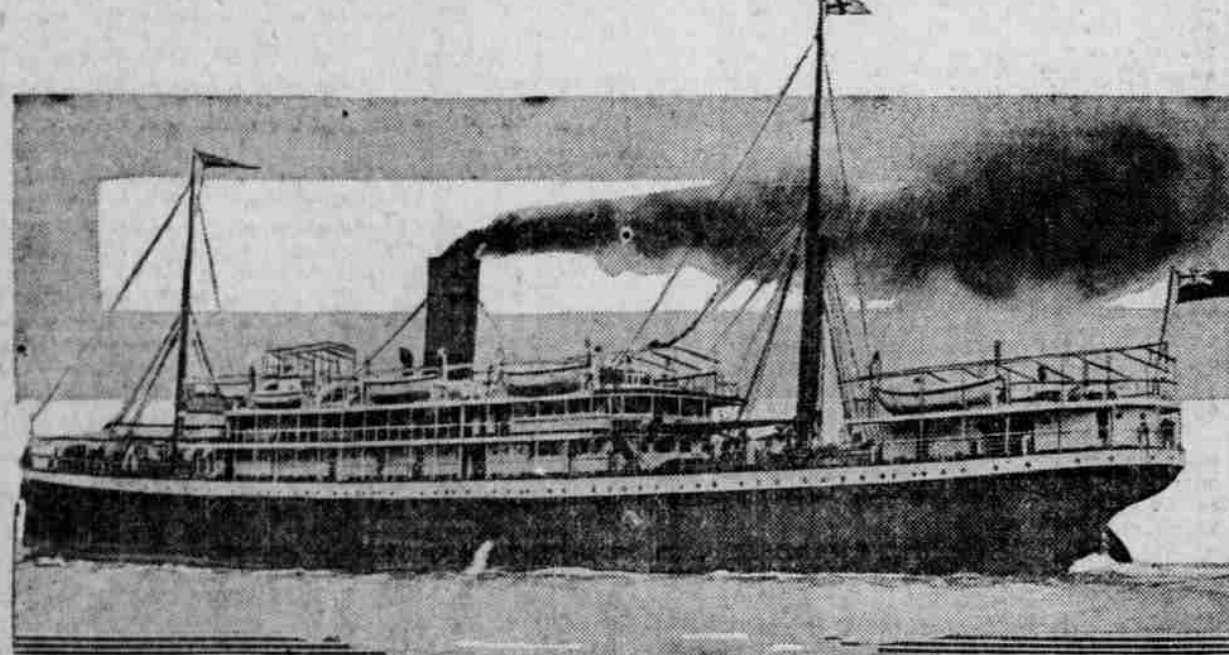
(6) "I shall dwell . . . forever." Goodness and mercy pursue the psalmist in marked contrast with the calamity and the angel of judgment which follow the wicked (Ps. 35:6; 140:11). There is a perpetuity of blessing as well as the penalty of sin. The psalmist leaves the feast for his dwelling house which shall abide "to length of days." This is to be interpreted in its fullest only by the New Testament (John 14:13; I Thess. 4:16, 17). Everlasting fellowship, communion and companionship with the Chief Shepherd, the "Great Shepherd of the sheep."

EAST PRUSSIAN TOWN WRECKED BY RUSSIANS



View of a part of Gerdanen, an East Prussian town, where the German forces were shelled out by the Russians. Hardly a house remained standing.

LINER FALABA, SUNK BY THE GERMANS



British liner Falaba, which was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine U-28, about 140 of her passengers and crew perishing. The fact that an American was among the victims caused a strong protest from Washington.

MILITARY DRESS FOR MAIDS



Lady Randolph Churchill, mother of the first lord of admiralty, has designed this military costume for her maid. She has taken the places of men now at the front. The idea pleases the women of England and is being adopted by many of them.

Proof to Show He Wasn't Crazy. Victor Mordock says that one night in Fort Scott, after a political meeting, two men who had been in the audience fell into a violent discussion about the topic of the speech of the evening. A big crowd lingered to hear the disputants out. One was named Flynn and the other Dobbins. They were evidently strangers to each other. Finally Flynn lost his head and said: "You're wrong, I tell you; you're wrong. You're crazy." "I am not," said Dobbins hotly; "I know what I am talking about." "No, you don't," shouted Flynn; "you're crazy—I tell you you are crazy." "I am not," cried Dobbins, "and I can prove it." Flynn stopped short in surprise and asked: "How?" Dobbins slowly drew a fat wad of papers from his inside pocket and said slowly and convincingly: "Well, here are my discharge papers from the asylum."—Kansas City Star.

ABSOLUTE RULER OF DEPOT. Scotch Station Master Takes Himself and His Position With the Utmost Seriousness.

"The way-side station master has not been exploited as a character study, as he might be, but any novelist or dramatist in search of a type would be repaid by a visit to a certain Yorkshire station, said a writer in the Glasgow (Scotland) News. The diminutive gentleman in charge regards his

position as something imbued with all the majesty of the law. Voe beside the guard who dares to signal for starting at this particular halting place. The train is at once stopped and the station master shows who is the lord of the place.

A couple of plasterers from another town were just missing the last train home the other night. The autocar blew his "whistle" and the train stopped. Unfortunately, one of the men was annoyed by the yelping of the factotum's dog, and made a kick

at it. "Whit! Kick ma dog? Ye'll no travel in that train!" A sharp whistle follows, and off goes the train without the plasterers.

A couple of small boys were looking out of the windows of the carriage as the train was leaving the station. One of them exultingly put his thumb to his nose at the station master. Immediately the train was stopped and the delinquent hauled out, soundly chastised, and put back howling into the compartment. Then the train proceeded.

SCOURGE OF CHRISTIANS IN PERSIA



One of the Kurdish horsemen who have been massacring Christians in Persia near the Turkish border.

TURKS SAVE GASOLINE SUPPLY



Photograph taken in Constantinople showing Turks removing stores of gasoline to a place of safety. It is said Turkey is experiencing a shortage of the valuable fluid.

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AUSTRIAN ARCHDUCHESS A RED CROSS WORKER



The Archduchess Maria Josepha (at right), mother of Archduke Karl Franz Joseph, the heir to the Austrian throne, like many other noblemen of practically all the countries engaged in the war, has answered the call of her country and has taken active charge of the Red Cross work. The photograph shows her acting as a good Samaritan to one of her wounded countrymen.

AMERICAN HORSES FOR THE FRENCH ARMY



Thousands of horses gathered from all parts of the United States brought together in large herds at Yonkers, N. Y., and shipped to France for the cavalry and artillery service. The photograph shows some of the horses on the dock.

"BUCKING THE BLANKET" IN CAMP



"Bucking the blanket" is part of the initiation of each new arrival in the British camps on the continent. A son of Scotland is here shown being tossed in the air.

LOFTY OBSERVATION PERCH



A Scottish and an English officer on observation duty perched high up in a fir tree in France.

Shave Spoiled His Passport. One of the most unusual passport cases which has yet come to the attention of the American embassy at London arose when a well-dressed American called to obtain a passport which had been sent to Washington some weeks ago to be renewed, but during the interim the owner of the passport had been denounced of his whiskers, which set of whiskers was still attached to the person when he sent his photographs to Washington, and he was described in the passport as bearded.

Asked why he shaved off the whiskers, he sheepishly stated that he had his whiskers shaved once a year and forgot all about the passport regulations.

Speed of Zeppelins. Zeppelins vary in speed, but the swiftest of them are not comparable in speed to the aeroplanes. The latter, it is safe to say, are twice as fast as the Zeppelins.

Preventing Premature Burials. The fear of being buried alive always has been, and is, so widespread that the French Academy of Science some years ago offered a prize equal to \$7,500 for the discovery of some means by which even the inexperienced might at once determine whether, in a given case, death had ensued or not. A physician obtained the prize. He had observed the following well-known signs: the hand of the suspected dead person is held towards a candle or other artificial light, with the fingers extended and one touching the other, and one looks towards the light, there appears a scarlet red color where the fingers touch, each other, due to the blood still circulating; it shows itself through the tissues which have not yet congealed. When life is entirely extinct, the phenomenon of scarlet spaces between the fingers at once ceases. The most extensive and thorough trials established the truth of his observation.

Teeth for Special Occasions. "Those Bullions simply roll in wealth." "Don't they say of state teeth?" "State teeth?" "Yes—the ones she wears at receptions and dinners. They're made of diamonds, rubies, pearls, sapphires and emeralds in succession. Why, one of her smiles is worth \$55,000."—New York Herald.

Their Kind. "When you want to be funny, how do you learn the ropes?" "Get some guy ropes."

Tuff Luck. She-I hope you found all your friends well. He-Yes; even my rich relations.

When fame does come to the average man it roasts on his tombstone.

A man usually smiles when another man invites him to do so.

NO WAR TAX ON CANADIAN LANDS

Untruthful Reports Circulated by Interested Parties.

Defaming a neighbor at the expense of the truth does not help those who are guilty of the practice, and it may be said that those spreading false reports about Canadian lands, in the hope that they may secure customers for their own, will certainly fail of their purpose. False statements so maliciously circulated will sooner or later be disproved. And, as in the case of the lands of Western Canada, the fertility of which is now so well known to people of every state in the United States, the folly of this work shows an exceeding short sightedness on the part of those guilty of the practice.

The present war has given some of these people the opportunity to exercise their art, but in doing it they are only arousing the curiosity of those who read the statements and a trifling investigation will only reveal their untruthfulness.

A very foolish statement has recently appeared in a number of papers, reading in part as follows: "It is believed that as a result of the war tax on land imposed by the Canadian Government a number of former Dakota farmers, who went to the British Northwest will be compelled to return to the United States. Information has been received that the tax will amount to about \$500 for each farm of 160 acres, which in the case of many of the former residents of the two Dakotas would practically amount to confiscation."

To show that the public has doubtless, hundreds of inquiries have been made the Government at Ottawa, Canada, only to bring out the most emphatic denial. A full-fledged lie of this kind has, of course, only a short life, and will tell in the end against those who forge it and spread it, but, as a Winnipeg paper points out, it is most complimentary to the agricultural possibilities of Western Canada to find that rival farming propositions need audacious mendacity of this description to help them.

What is the truth? The Saskatchewan Government has authorized a levy of \$10 per quarter section on uncultivated lands owned by non-residents. The Alberta Government has imposed a Provincial tax of 10 mills on the assessed value of all uncultivated lands. There are some special applications of these taxes, but the main provisions are as above. Those vacant lands held by non-residents in Western Canada form a grave problem. They are making for poor communities, poor schools and poor social and economic conditions generally. By having them cultivated the owners as well as the districts in which they are located will benefit alike. It is for this reason that the Government has recently asked the co-operation of the non-residents. The high price of grain for some years past, and the general splendid character of Western Canada land will make the question well worth consideration.—Advertiser.

THOUGHT OF NONE BUT HUBBY

Jealous Woman Unable to Imagine That Any Other Man Would Flirt With Her.

"Twas at the masked ball. Smilax and battlex were the chief note in the decorative scheme.

Mrs. Mulliger Tawne, the jealouslest woman of our set, turned green underneath her mask.

"That man in the mauve domino is my husband!" she hissed to herself. "Oh, if I catch him actually flirting!"

Just then the man in the mauve domino strolled over to her.

"Ah, beautiful one—for I know you are beautiful even though your features are hidden," he began with a low, but not common bow.

"If he but knew!" she thought greedily, "Oh, but I will make him rue this day!"

"You do not answer," continued the man in mauve. And he leaned suddenly over and kissed one of her two cheeks. A wild, baleful light sprang into her eyes.

"I will divorce you for this!" she muttered. And just then the bell rang for unmasking. The man in mauve slipped his mask off, and Mrs. Mulliger Tawne started back, fainting from disappointment.

It was not her husband.—Detroit Free Press.

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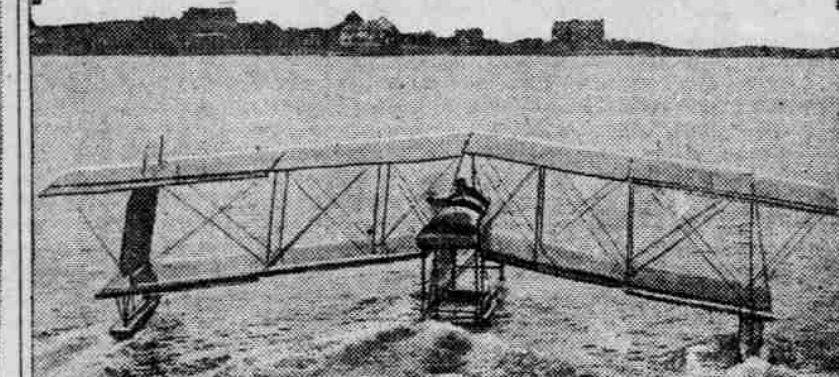
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RUSSIA BUYS AMERICAN AEROPLANES



View of a Burgess Dunne aeroplane having its official try-out under the supervision of agents of the Russian government, who have been buying a number of American aeroplanes.

RISE OF APARTMENT HOUSE

Idea When Introduced Into America Was at Once Recognized as a Good Thing.

With the introduction of apartment houses in the early '70s New York entered upon a new era in its history. The "French flats," as they were then called, became popular at once, though many wisecracks shook their heads dolefully and declared that they would

soon be followed by "French morals"—an ancient Anglo-Saxon term for general depravity.

It is impossible to state with accuracy the influence exerted by the apartment house upon morals, but in the important problem of living with in one's means the results have been far-reaching and beneficial. It has provided homes for thousands of families who could not afford houses, and such is the saving in the work of housekeeping that the wealthy are glad to avail themselves of its advantages.

Teach French to Tommies. Experiments made at the training camp at Petersfield in teaching British soldiers sufficient French to make themselves understood in daily life at the front have been markedly successful. The method, which was worked out by a resident of the neighborhood, is being taught by volun-

teers, who have been more successful in the work than professional language teachers.

The men are taught first the names of things for which they would be most likely to ask in a French town—bread, wine, cigarettes, matches and so on. Then verses taken in these words are made up to some catchy French tune—"Sur le pont d'Avignon" is being much used in this connection—and the soldiers thus fix the words in their memories.

The next step is the staging of va-

rious scenes in which the soldier may find himself. He is stopped by a "French" sentry and has to reply to the usual challenges in French. He is rescued by a "French" Red Cross nurse and explains the nature of his imaginary wounds. It has been found that most of the men complete this brief course satisfactorily within a month.

Life is getting to be progressive changing partners after every little matrimonial game.